



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Pierce R. Homer
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May 16, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory A. Whirley, Sr.
FROM: Pierce R. Homer *PH*
RE: Development of Traffic Impact Statement Regulations

The General Assembly approved legislation proposed by Governor Kaine (Senate Bill 699) establishing a framework for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) review and comment on proposed changes to local comprehensive plans, rezoning actions and proposed subdivision plats, site plans or plans of development. This is an important component of our effort to improve the coordination of land use and transportation planning.

Land-use decisions are within the jurisdiction of localities. The Department's role in this review process is to support and enhance the local decision making process by providing information and other assistance upon request.

This legislation will require the development of statewide regulations to define the standards for traffic impact statements. In developing these regulations, the Department's efforts should be guided by the following policy goals:

- The regulations should establish a standard framework of assumptions, definitions, methodologies and scope of review for the traffic impact statements presented to the Department.
- Consistent with the enabling legislation, the regulations should reflect a presumption that a traffic impact statement will be submitted to the Department unless one or more exception criteria are met.
- The regulations should not require repetitive or redundant analysis as a proposed land use proceeds through the local approval process.
- The regulations should not add time to the local review process.

Memorandum To –
Mr. Gregory A. Whirley, Sr.
May 16, 2006
Page Two

Assistant Secretary Carr will oversee this effort on behalf of this office and serve as Chairman of a Policy Advisory Panel, consisting of representatives of local governments and other interested and affected entities, to be convened to provide input as development of the regulations proceeds.

The Policy Advisory Panel will be supported by a Technical Committee comprised of VDOT and local government representatives. Within VDOT, this effort will benefit from the input of various disciplines and the expertise of field personnel with significant experience reviews of this nature. The implementation team should also draw assistance from the Research Council.

In order to achieve the timelines specified in the legislation, implementation should proceed along the following general timeline:

5/15 – 7/1:	Technical Committee develops initial draft regulation
7/1 – 9/1:	Policy Advisory Panel meetings to solicit input for refinements to initial draft
9/1 – 10/1:	Publication of modified draft on Regulatory Town Hall and public hearings held to solicit public comment
9/20:	Presentation of modified draft to Commonwealth Transportation Board
10/1 – 11/1:	Modified draft revised
10/15 – 12/1:	VDOT development of cost report and recommended fee schedule based on draft regulation
11/15:	Presentation of final regulation to Commonwealth Transportation Board and submission for Executive Approval
12/15:	Publication of final regulation

Mr. Carr will work with Mr. Walton to convene the implementation team in the very near future so this important endeavor can begin.

Copy: The Honorable Edward R. Houck
The Honorable Jeffrey F. Frederick
Mr. James G. Carr
Mr. Richard L. Walton, Jr.
Mr. E. Scott Kasprovicz
Dr. Gary R. Allen
Mr. Brian M. Shepard
Virginia Association of Counties
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